

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing interoperability between a first agent operating under a first policy and a second agent operating under a second policy comprising the steps of:

assigning a first controller to said first agent, said first controller accessing a first list of policies to which said first agent can interoperate;

assigning a second controller to said second agent, said second controller accessing a second list of policies to which said second agent can interoperate;

exporting a message from said first agent to said second ~~agent~~ controller by said first controller ~~under a first law for enforcing said first policy~~, said message including an identifier to said first policy; and

importing said message ~~at~~ from said second controller to said second agent under a second law for enforcing said second policy if when said identifier to said first policy of said message is in said list of policies to which said second agent can interoperate or ignoring said message at said second controller when said identifier to said first policy of said message is not in said list of policies to which said second agent can operate.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

applying a verifiable authentication to said message before exporting said message, said verifiable authentication indicating said first controller is an authentic controller with a trusted authority; and

verifying said verifiable authentication in said step of importing said message at said second agent.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said verifiable authentication is a public key and a signature.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said signature includes said message, a hash of ~~said a~~ first law for enforcing said first policy and a hash of said second law for enforcing said second policy.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first policy and said second policy are defined by a four-tuple of

$$\{M, G, CS, L\}$$

where M is a set of messages regulated by policy P ; G is a group of agents that exchange messages belonging to M ; CS is a mutable set of control states with one said control state per member of group G ; and L is a law comprising an enforced set of rules of engagement for regulating the exchange of said set of messages between members of said group G .

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of exporting said message from said first agent is performed by a rule of ~~said a~~ first law involving an operation $\text{export}(X/P, m, y/Q)$ wherein x represents said first agent, y represents said second agent, P represents said first policy and Q represents said second policy.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of importing said message at said second agent is performed by a rule of ~~said a~~ second law responding to an event $\text{import}(X/P, m, Y/Q)$ occurring when said message arrives at said second agent.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of: evaluating said import event with said second law and ~~said a~~ control state of said second agent.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first agent is a first business enterprise and said second agent is a second business enterprise.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: defining an interaction policy for interaction between said first agent and said second agent wherein said first agent operates under said first policy and said interaction policy and said second agent operates under said second policy and said interaction policy.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) A system for providing interoperability between a first agent operating under a first policy and a second agent operating under a second policy comprising:

a first controller assigned to said first agent, said first controller accessing a first list of policies to which said first agent can interoperate;

a second controller assigned to said second agent, said second controller accessing a second list of policies to which said second agent can interoperate;

means for exporting a message from said first agent to said second agent by said first controller ~~under a first law for enforcing said first policy~~, said message including an identifier to said first policy; and

means for importing said message ~~at to~~ said second agent ~~under a second law for enforcing said second policy~~ if when said identifier to said first policy of said message is in said list of policies to which said second agent can interoperate.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 further comprising:

a verifiable authentication being applied to said message before exporting said message, said verifiable authentication indicating said first controller is an authentic controller with a trusted authority; and

means for verifying said verifiable authentication during importing said message at said second agent.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said verifiable authentication is a public key and a signature.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18 wherein said signature includes said message, a hash of ~~said a first law~~ for enforcing said first policy and a hash of ~~said a second law~~ for enforcing said second policy.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said first agent is a first business enterprise and said second agent is a second business enterprise.